

**Written Remarks of Traviss Green,
Lockheed Martin/The Maryland Center at BSU's Education Innovation Initiative (EI2) &
Youth Career Connect**

**"Make It in America: What's Next?" District Field Hearing
PANEL TWO: Skills Training for the Future**

I would like to begin by extending my heartfelt appreciation to Congressman Hoyer, members of the Maryland Delegation, staff and everyone in attendance today. It is encouraging to see on-going and widespread consensus on the critical importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) in the security, preservation and prosperity of our great nation. Many reports have estimated the economic impact of STEAM both nationally and in terms of global competitiveness. In fact, a report prepared for the U.S. Department of Labor estimated that 50 percent of our nation's economic growth can be directly attributed to STEAM contributions over the last 50 years. Future projections indicate a continued growth in STEAM workforce projections and a demand for trained and qualified workers that is unmatched by any other sector in our economy.

However, while the demand is great, the supply is limited and this is punctuated by the continued disparity in STEAM performance amongst underrepresented populations, along with a progressive gender divide. The investment in education has been great, yet minority participation in STEAM has not kept pace with national averages and our national averages have not kept pace with the rest of the world. A 2006 report discovered that underrepresented minority groups account for nearly 30 percent of the national population but only 9 percent were college educated with a STEAM-related degree. Unfortunately, this has been a continuing trend and most recent estimates suggest that given the current populous, underrepresented minorities in STEAM would need to triple in size to match their share of STEAM achievement amongst the current overall U.S. population.

At Lockheed Martin Corporation, we are celebrating 100 years of delivering enterprise solutions to some of our nation's most difficult challenges. Recognized by Washington Technology as the #1 provider of global security and information technology (IT) to the U.S. Government for 21 consecutive years, we are both proud and committed to serving our nation both overseas and throughout the homeland. We know firsthand the importance of STEAM with nearly 112,000 employees operating world-wide, more than 60 percent of which are principally engaged in STEAM-related professions. Emerging and transformational technologies such as cloud computing, mobility, analytics, social IT and cyber security will be key enablers that allow us to bring today's solutions to tomorrow's challenges. Advancing STEAM is critical to Lockheed Martin and we are committed to broad collaboration and participation in programs that educate, inspire and prepare our future workforce.

This is why we are so proud to support the Education Innovation Initiative (EI2), which is Bowie State University's signature STEAM academic enrichment program. This program is grounded in advocacy for early career pathway exposure targeting underrepresented students in Prince George's County. With Bowie State celebrating a sesquicentennial achievement of 150 years in academic excellence, the EI2 expands upon the University's proud teaching history and establishes an equitable balance with advanced research, development and experimentation. Through pioneering leadership from The Maryland Center, a non-profit organization and affiliated foundation of the University System of Maryland (USM), this program provides unique access to career simulation experiences and incentivizes progression towards successful degree completion and preparedness for STEAM careers.

What started as a coalition of the willing on campus with one faculty and a small cohort of students who shared a devout passion for the development of public safety mobile broadband applications, has grown to a formalized program that received recent White House recognition as the key component of Prince George's County's first IT career pathway. Thanks primarily to a Youth Career Connect Program (YCCP) grant, the program has expanded to incorporate 10 Prince George's County Public School (PGCPS) teachers and 68 PGCPS career academy students for an exciting cyber security capstone challenge. Over the next three years, this program will continue to expand to accommodate 272 PGCPS students and more than 40 PGCPS teachers with increased opportunities for internships, externships, mentorships, work-study programs and cooperative learning within a career pathways framework.

It is imperative that we prioritize future STEAM efforts on the need for continued development and sustainment of career pathway opportunities. These pathways must be aligned to specific agency or industry missions and needs. This enables the production of skill-sets and expertise that will be required to meet future workforce demands. The key for success is not just in the investment required to improve STEAM performance but rather the importance of being invested in STEAM achievement by establishing predetermined, sustainable pathway programs aimed at closing the achievement gap. Maintaining our focus and commitment to STEAM will ensure that the future we leave for the next generation is more secure, prosperous and best positioned to sustain America's position as a world leader for generations to come.